

century of their good work doing just that.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I am pleased that the fiscal year 2020 appropriations bill for the Department of State and Foreign Operations was reported unanimously by the committee earlier today. There is a great deal in the bill that the American people can feel good about, as the summaries released by both the majority and minority indicate. However, as is always the case with bipartisan legislation, there are also things that I wish were not in the bill, and there are things missing from the bill that I wish had been included. I want to speak about one of those.

I deeply regret that the bill does not even mention the words “climate change.” That is remarkable, or perhaps a better word is “appalling,” when one considers the existential threat that climate change poses for every living thing on Earth. If Democrats were in the majority, funding for programs to combat global warming and adapt to climate change would be a priority in the bill. Instead, it is completely missing.

An example is the Green Climate Fund, GCF, which was created in 2010 with the active participation of the United States. Its mission is to respond to climate change by investing in low-emission and climate-resilient development. The GCF was established to limit or reduce greenhouse gas emissions in developing countries and to help vulnerable societies adapt to the unavoidable impacts of climate change. The United States contributed a total of \$1 billion in the first 2 years of operation of the GCF.

Then President Trump was elected. Even though, according to press reports, the Trump Organization had previously cited climate change in its application for a permit to build a barrier to protect a Trump golf course from the rising sea level and increasingly powerful storms, he continues to publicly refuse to recognize climate change as a serious threat. Despite that hypocrisy and overwhelming scientific recognition of the impact of burning fossil fuels on the Earth's climate, the Trump White House withdrew from the Paris climate agreement and opposed further U.S. funding for the GCF. Republican majorities in the Congress fell into line, and in the past two appropriations bills, there has been no funding for a U.S. contribution to the GCF.

The next replenishment for the GCF is scheduled for 2020. Since there are no funds in the bill just reported by the Appropriations Committee for a U.S. contribution to the GCF, absent an about-face by the White House, the United States will not make a replenishment pledge. It will be left to other countries to ensure that the GCF continues to operate. Once again, U.S.

leadership to address what many believe to be the most ominous threat facing the world is nowhere to be seen.

Despite that inexcusable failure by the White House and the Republican leadership in Congress, it is important to emphasize that overwhelmingly the American people recognize the threat that climate change poses and they want strong action to address it. They see what is happening here and around the world, as extreme climatic events—hurricanes, tornadoes, flooding, droughts, and forest fires, coupled with crop failures, displacement of people whose homes and livelihoods are destroyed, and unprecedented migration flows—become more and more frequent and destructive. They rightly fear that if we fail to act, not long from now, these types of disasters will be exponentially worse, and they worry about the chaos this would cause for their children and grandchildren.

I mention this because I am confident that as soon as we have a President who puts the lives of future generations above the profits and campaign contributions of the fossil fuel companies, the United States will once again become a leader against climate change and a leading contributor to the GCF. Other countries should understand this. Despite President Trump and his cheerleaders in Congress, the United States has not turned its back on the threat of climate change, nor have we abandoned the GCF. Presidents come and go, and while U.S. support for diplomacy and programs to combat climate change is currently suspended, the American people, and especially the younger generation, will make sure that suspension is only temporary.

ONE-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEATH OF JAMAL KHASHOGGI

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, today we remember and remind the world that nearly 1 year has passed since the premeditated murder of Jamal Khashoggi by the Saudi Government.

That horrific crime, carried out so brazenly as if it were just a routine job, exposed the true character of the Saudi Government not only as it pertains to Mr. Khashoggi but to the ruthless treatment of critics of the Saudi royal family more broadly.

While the Crown Prince systematically orders the execution of his opponents, he has so far escaped punishment for the murder of Mr. Khashoggi and for the lies about that crime.

Multiple Saudi officials, including the Foreign Minister, Minister of Interior, and others—all members of the royal family—flagrantly and shamelessly lied to the world, repeatedly changing their story.

The Crown Prince called Khashoggi a “dangerous jihadist.” That too was a lie.

The Saudis, who have refused to turn over Mr. Khashoggi's remains, insist that the men who were arrested are the

only ones involved in the murder. No one who knows anything about the Saudi royal family, which is the Saudi Government, believes that.

Despite all the incriminating evidence and all the lies, the White House continues to ignore its own intelligence experts and the U.N. Special Rapporteur, relying instead on the Saudi royal family to investigate itself. What a sham.

This crime reminds us that journalists the world over who shine a spotlight on corrupt, repressive governments risk their lives and the safety of their families. They are threatened and killed for nothing more than doing their job.

Today we are also concerned about the fate of hundreds of courageous pro-democracy activists who have recently been arrested for protesting against corruption and repression in Egypt. Journalists, members of opposition political parties, and civil society activists in Egypt are routinely persecuted, denied due process, and subjected to prolonged physical and psychological abuse.

If the Saudi royal family can escape punishment for the premeditated murder of a Washington Post journalist, what does that say to journalists everywhere? What does it say about our own government, if we accept that?

I want to remind the Saudi Government, the White House, and the State Department that we do not—and we will not—accept that. Jamal Khashoggi was murdered, and there is no reasonable doubt about who is culpable. Justice will be done—no matter how long it takes.

CONFIRMATION OF GENERAL JOHN E. HYTEN

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, earlier today, this body confirmed Gen. John Hyten as Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. The vote was 75 to 22. It should have been 100 to 0.

General Hyten has weathered a storm of malicious attacks on his character—attacks that have been elevated by credulous pundits and politicians, even as they have been debunked again and again by independent investigations.

Today, General Hyten got his due, and Joint Chiefs gained a great leader—all because he refused to back down and because a majority of this body was willing to follow the facts where they lead.

General Hyten has devoted his life to public service. He attended Harvard University on an ROTC scholarship and spent the next three decades mastering warfare in a new domain: space. Today, he is an undisputed expert in space technology and operations, having served in senior positions at Strategic Command, Central Command, Air Force Space Command, and the 50th Space Wing at Schriever Air Force Base.

Gen. Hyten's expertise and leadership will only grow more valuable in the